

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 are pending in the application. Claims 1-33 are rejected.

Independent claims 1, 12 and 23 have been amended to clarify applicant's claimed invention. In each claim the packet is clarified as an Open Shortest Path First (OSPF) packet. This packet includes a piece of information in the unused options field of OSPF packets indicating for other routers whether the sending router belongs to the connection-oriented network. OSPF is a protocol for stipulating a method for which routers share a routing protocol

Claims 1 through 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Callon et al. (U.S. Patent 5,251,205) (hereinafter Callon). Callon teaches a network of information handling devices which forward user data packets through communication links wherein each packet includes an address indicating the packet's destination and a method for calculating routes for sending user data packets via information handling devices which forward data packets through a communication network.

In applicant's claimed invention, an OSPF packet which includes information transmitted to another router and each router which belongs to a network automatically recognizes a router belonging to a connection-oriented network by detecting the information. By generating a routing tree a connection-oriented network device can be identified in the routing tree so that mapping can be executed between a connection-oriented network and a connectionless network in an edge device.

With respect to claims 1, 12 and 23, the packet includes a piece of information indicating for other routers whether the sending router belongs to the connection-oriented network in the unused options field of OSPF packets. It is respectfully submitted this is not taught or anticipated in Callon.

In addition applicant's claimed invention offers a method of performing a fully automatic mapping between an FEC and a connection, transmitting the information to a connection protocol and establishing a plurality of routes required for load balancing utilizing existing Internet routing protocol information, such as OSPF.

Thus only minor modifications, such as adding new identifiers, etc., are required. Because of the unique features of the claimed invention, load balancing in an MPLS network can be automated and the addition/deletion of a bypass can be autonomously performed depending on the load situation of an arbitrary link in the network.

For at least the foregoing reasons it is respectfully requested the rejections of claims 1-33 be withdrawn.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Docket No.: FUJO 18.115 (100794-11593)

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